

Exhibit A

DECLARATION OF GARYL ALEXIS


1. My true and complete name is Garyl Alexis. I was born on November 4, 1989, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. I came to the United States when I was four years old, and I have never returned to Haiti.
2. I have lived in Connecticut my whole life since then, and I do not speak Haitian Creole or French.
3. I have no family members in Haiti who could support me there. My grandmother lived there for a while, but she now lives in the United States, along with my father, who is a U.S. citizen, my four U.S. citizen siblings, and almost all of my cousins and uncles and aunts. Most of them are citizens or permanent residents, though some have Temporary Protected Status.
4. Although I am told that I have an aunt in Haiti, my father's half-sister, my family does not keep in touch with her or trust her. I have an uncle who was sent back to Haiti years ago, too, but the last we heard, he had fled Haiti to live in Santo Domingo. I do not know either one of them.
5. Throughout my life, I have lived with my aunt Myrlande Alexis, a U.S. citizen, who I call my mom. I haven't had any contact with my biological mother for years, and she has never played a role in my life. I do not know where she lives or how to get in touch with her.
6. Life in the United States has been good to me in many ways. I have grown up around my whole extended family, and I have been able to be part of that community for many years.
7. But living here has also been difficult for me. I didn't know that I wasn't a citizen or permanent resident until I graduated from high school and had to start thinking about college and work, and that was a really difficult realization.
8. I was lucky enough to get Temporary Protected Status in 2010, so I could work for a while, and when I had that opportunity, I worked as hard as I could. When my TPS expired, I gave my aunt money to reapply, but a lawyer told us to wait to apply for DACA instead, so I could leave the country and become a permanent resident. But I didn't get DACA, and when I applied to TPS again, the time to reregister had expired.
9. So, I've had to make do without work authorization for a long time. I've done my best. I've worked odd jobs and taken classes at Gateway Community College, and I've tried to

make myself useful in other ways. I cared for my aunt Myrlande when she was sick with cancer, and I've volunteered coaching basketball. I've always tried to make it a priority to guide my siblings and cousins and to help them achieve more than they thought they could do.

10. I am scared of returning to Haiti. Coming here at four years old, I don't even know the country. I just know that I'm going to really stick out and that's going to have consequences.
11. I'm scared that the Haitian government will throw me in jail when I return, and I don't know how I'll survive that. Those jails aren't like the jails in Connecticut. If I get out, I don't know where I'll go or how I'll get a job or how I'll feed myself. I don't know who would hire someone who doesn't speak the language. I know that people will look at me and see that I'm American and hate me for what I had when I lived here. I know they will blame me and accuse me of terrible things because they think that I must have done something terrible to get sent back there.
12. I know that I have made some mistakes in my life and hung out with the wrong people sometimes, but I've always tried to be a good person and I hope that the court will see the letters of my friends and family and neighbors and recognize that.
13. I hope that the court will also understand what I'm going back to, and how I don't stand a chance if I end up there.

I, Garyl Alexis, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed on September 12, 2019.



Garyl Alexis